History as independent subject

†703. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided not to induct History as an independent subject from class 10th; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Government does not prescribe a curriculum or syllabus in the Schools. NCERT has prepared a National Curriculum Framework for School Education which is adopted/adapted by the State School Boards. As reported by NCERT, History is taught as a separate subject after class X *i.e.* in classes XI-XII. According to the National Policy and Education (1986) history is a part of environmental studies from classes I—V and social studies from classes VI—X.

Transparency in examination system

†704. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Board of Secondary Education conducts examinations for class 10th and 12th;

(b) if so, the number of complaints made during last three years on an average, regarding the doubtfulness about authenticity of the examinations; and

(c) whether in view of the complaints, Government would take any decision to bring about transparency in the examination system; if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducts examination for these classes for the schools affiliated with it.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Comments and observations have been made on various aspects of the CBSE examinations. During the period from 1999—2001, seven percent of the candidates who had appeared in Class X and Class XII Examinations conducted by the CBSE submitted applications for rechecking of their marks. The CBSE is an autonomous body and has been taking measures such as development, publication & use of Sample Question Papers and detailed Marking Schemes etc. for bringing reforms in the examinations. The progress is reviewed in the Ministry from time to time and the Board has been asked to bring in further transparency in the system to the satisfaction of the candidates.

Functioning of Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Mumbai

705. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2149, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th December, 2000, and state:

(a) the details of the report of the group constituted by the high level Committee which visited the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (Mumbai) on 27th September, 2000; and

(b) The details of the decision taken by the high level Committee on the report?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Group constituted by the High Level Committee inquired into the functioning of Institution of Mechanical Engineers (India), Mumbai and found many shortcomings in the functioning of the Institution and submitted its report, which was placed before the High Level Committee for consideration.

The Committee after going into the facts of the case took a decision to temporarily suspend the recognition granted to the examinations conducted by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (India), Mumbai for a period of three months. The Committee also decided that recognition will be withdrawn if the Institute fails to remove the shortcomings pointed out by the Expert Committee within the stipulated time.